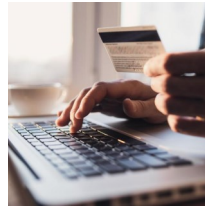




Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works &
Engineering Division

Nov/Dec 2024



Sustainability Tip —
Financing projects



Green to Go
Ordinance adopted



Sustainable Steward
Application



Good Climate News

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Sustainability Tip — Financing Home Projects

Do you have an aging furnace or air conditioner, or have you been considering purchasing an electric vehicle? These projects can be expensive, but there are many ways you can save money using utility, federal, and other rebate savings—**often all at the same time.**

Home Energy Squad audit—schedule one of these visits before any large home project! Roseville residents can get a discounted or free visit. They will install LED lights, weather stripping, and low flow faucet heads during the visit, and you will receive a detailed energy report with recommendations and quotes afterwards.

Inflation Reduction Act—The single largest U.S. investment in climate action has many different rebates for residential home projects, including many that can stack with other rebate programs. Below are the three most common credits:

- **Energy Efficient/Home Improvement Credit (25C)**—Households can qualify for a tax credit up to \$3,200 per year, and can be claimed annually through 2032. Applicable projects: insulation/air sealing, doors/windows, efficient heating and cooling (air source heat pumps, efficient furnaces, water heaters).
- **Residential Clean Energy Credit (25D)**—Households can qualify for a tax credit of 30% with no maximum value on renewable energy projects like rooftop solar and battery storage.
- **Federal Clean Vehicle Credits** - New clean vehicles are eligible for a \$7,500 tax credit, and used clean vehicles can receive up to a \$4,000 credit. Income limits and vehicle value limits apply to both credits.
- Want to know what your house qualifies for? [Use my favorite calculator](#) from Rewiring America to learn about the rebates you are eligible for based on your income.

Xcel Energy Rebates—Xcel Energy offers rebates for many different types of home upgrades, including HVAC, water heater, insulation, and even outdoor electric equipment.

City of Roseville resources—residents can access special low-interest loan programs and rebates to help with home projects:

- **Loan programs through the Center for Energy and Environment**
- **Water Efficiency Rebate Program**—up to \$300 off your water bill for replacing your toilet, clothes washer, dishwasher, or showerhead, or repairing/replacing your irrigation system.

Coming 2025: the State of Minnesota will release [additional home energy rebates](#) for similar home projects. Sign up for updates!

Green to Go ordinance passes in Roseville

Roseville City Council **unanimously voted** to adopt a Green to Go ordinance at the October 21st council meeting, making Roseville the **fifth city in Minnesota** to enact an ordinance requiring food takeout containers to be recyclable, compostable, or reusable.

Why are we doing this? Our goal is to eliminate the use of Styrofoam and reduce non-recyclable single-use plastic. Around 180 licensed food businesses currently operate in the City of Roseville, and the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in many more restaurants offering take-out service: digital ordering and delivery have grown 300% faster than dine-in traffic since 2014! Given our volume of restaurants in Roseville, this ordinance stands to make a difference in our waste streams.

What happens next? The ordinance goes into effect January 1, 2025. We will not enforce the ordinance for 12 months, and will focus on working with businesses on how they can transition to compliant container materials.

Who is affected? Businesses that provide take-out food packaging/containers or utensils. This includes restaurants, but also organizations providing to-go food or beverages (free or paid) at events that require a permit or license, including food trucks, convenience stores, grocery stores, and schools. Food that comes pre-packaged by the manufacturer is exempt.

What do residents need to know? We will require that any compostable items are **BPI certified**—but note that **not all products are suitable for backyard compost**. Compostable plastics, including lined hot cups and utensils, must be put into commercial compost to break down—so take them to the **food scraps drop site** on Dale Street. For recyclable containers, make sure to rinse off extra food before dropping them in your recycling bin.

TWIN CITIES SUBURBS

Roseville bans plastic foam, nonrecyclable to-go containers

Aiming to reduce the number of takeout containers in landfills, Roseville will require them to be recyclable, compostable or reusable.

By Greta Kaul

The Minnesota Star Tribune

OCTOBER 23RD AT 10:27 AM CDT



Roseville's new Green To Go ordinance requires takeout containers to be recyclable, compostable or reusable. The ordinance passed unanimously and is similar to ordinances in nearby cities. (Glen Stubbe / The Minnesota Star Tribune)

Plastic Bag Recycling at local elementary schools



Last year, **Central Park Elementary School** earned a new bench by recycling over 1,000 pounds of plastic—and they are collecting again this year! Bring your plastic bags, cereal box bags, bubble wrap, and other plastic films to the main office at **535 County Road B2 West in Roseville** during school hours.

Harambee Elementary School's PTO also organized a program to receive a bench, and due to its great success, will start collecting again later in December. They are located at **30 County Road B East in Maplewood**.

Plastic bags will be collected by NexTrex and will be turned

Photo from Central Park Elementary into benches made into the same material as Trex's composite decking and railings. Consider taking your plastic bags and films to one of these schools to be recycled!

City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

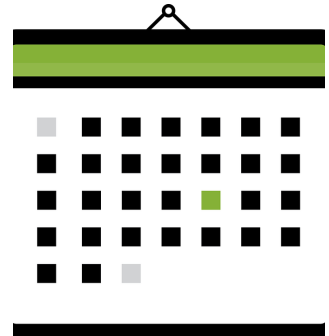
Events and Resources

December Zero Waste Celebration—Monday, 12/2, 5:00-7:00pm, Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy N., Saint Paul. A very cool event hosted by the MN Zero Waste Coalition—hear from community leaders, enjoy a free meal from Pimiento, and bring some clothes to print, mend, or swap! Childcare provided. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Rice & Larpenteur Winter Warm-up—Saturday, December 14th, 1:00-3:00pm, Maplewood Corner of Rice St. & Larpenteur Ave. Celebrate community and the winter season while warming up with friends and neighbors. No ticket needed - just stop by! The event will include free treats, music, fire pits, and activities, including a winter clothing exchange. [Learn more here.](#)

[Green Career Training with Center for Energy and Environment](#)—CEE offers paid training to join the fast-growing clean energy and energy efficiency sector. We prioritize training Black, Indigenous, Asian, Latine, people of color and women from communities across the Twin Cities that have been underrepresented in this industry. Past graduates have gone on to work as energy auditors, insulation installers, line workers, contractors, and more.

[Ramsey County Public Works ADA Transition Plan Comment Period](#)—as required by the Americans with Disability Act, Ramsey County has released a draft plan to outline how the County will make public works assets like crosswalks, sidewalks, and curb ramps ADA compliant. You can learn [more at this link](#) and take a survey to share your feedback. The public comment period closes on January 18th, 2025.



Are you a Roseville Sustainable Steward?



Do you try to take day-to-day actions to reduce your environmental impact? Do you own a Roseville business that's making efforts to reduce energy usage or waste within your operations? Are you working on a significant home or commercial building project that incorporates energy efficiency and/or renewable energy?

We want to hear from you! Last year we introduced our [Roseville Sustainable Steward program](#) to recognize residents and businesses doing good work to make our community more sustainable.

[Please complete an application form](#) if any of the above questions describe you! Qualified applicants will receive a window cling, sticker, and/or a yard sign, and all applications will be entered into our annual award contest to receive a cash award, certificate, and City Council recognition. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions—we encourage everyone to apply!

City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Positive Climate News



four years!

Big State and Local Wins for Climate and Conservation in the United States. Despite an otherwise grim election, it did have some bright spots, including in several states where voters chose to fund climate measures—10 states, including CA and MN, had successful ballot measures that secured over \$18.7 billion in funding for sustainability and conservation.

State and Local government climate action will be critical over the next

Transit fares will be simplified, lowered in 2025—Met Council recently announced that they will make sweeping changes to their fare system to make it more affordable and more accessible, as well as rolling out systemwide fare collection upgrades over the next several years.

The biggest grid storage project using old batteries is online in Texas—Element Energy developed a 53 megawatt grid storage project using used electric vehicle batteries, which cost about one third as much as new batteries. The success of projects like this will help bolster renewable energy like wind and solar, to provide extra power during times of higher demand.

Northern Iowa organic grain farm demonstrates profitable, sustainable model—Clear Creek Acres is showing that organic farming without pesticides and chemicals can still generate similar revenue to conventional agriculture, as well as improve water quality in areas adjacent to the farm.

Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!

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